Rosneft Oil Company signed a Memorandum of Understanding to expand their cooperation by jointly taking up projects in Russia, India and third countries.

Meeting of anti-terrorism panel

312. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the anti-terrorism panel set up by India and Pakistan held its first meeting in Islamabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the counter-terrorism initiatives proposed to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It was agreed during Foreign Secretary-level talks in November, 2006 that the mandate of the joint anti-terror mechanism would be to consider counter terrorism measures, including through the regular and timely sharing of information. The first meeting of this mechanism is scheduled to take place in Islamabad on 6 March, 2007.

Weaponisation of space

†313. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether American intelligence agencies have claimed that China has acquired capability to target and destroy any satellite after successful testing through ground to air ballistic missile in January, 2007;

(b) whether it is likely to trigger a race for weaponisation of space; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government so far to check militarisation of space at international level with outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Chinese Foreign Ministry confirmed on 23 January,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.